(c) what would be its impact on the cost of the project and prospect of completion of the project which is already behind schedule; and

(d) what steps are taken to solve the crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A suggestion was received for an alternative alignment which was projected as much cheaper. The work was temporarily stopped to enable examination of this alternative vis-a-vis the existing approved alignment.

(c) These aspects are under examination.

(d) A decision will be taken shortly by the Government after considering merits and implications of the alternative.

Accident of a Stationary Goods Train between Anuppur-Pauhari Railway Station

364. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Driver of the Engine of Electrification Department which collided with a stationary goods train between Anuppur-Pauhari Railway Station in Bilaspur division on 29-1-1993, was a jeep driver and ignorant about Railway's safety rules;

(b) whether the said Electrification Department's train had Guard brakevan with Guard;

(c) if not, whether the authorities had asked 'a Jeep Driver' to operate the Electrification Department's train's engine on emergency basis;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in Braspur Division of S.E. Railway 25 per cent of trains are being run without guard brakevan; and

(c) whether it is a fact that guard is responsible from safety point of view for the safety of the entire engine ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir. The accident involved a Tower Wagon and it occurred between Anuppur and Mauhari railway stations.

(b) A tower wagon is not provided with a Brakevan.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Railway accident in Bilaspur Division

365. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a major accident took place on 15-2-93 in Bilaspur division of S.E. Railway between Khondri Khogsare at Bhanwartank Railway Station which claimed lives of a number of railway employees including the Driver of the train, PWI official and gangmen, involving loss of crores of rupees due to the fact that the said train was running without Guard and Guard brakevan;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to stop such practice of running trains without Guard/Guard brakevan; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) An accident involving a departmental train of the Railway took place on 15-2-93 at Bhanwartank station. 7 Railway employees died. The driver was, however, injured and did not die. The cause of the accident is under enquiry by Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.